

HONORING THE LATE BARBARA
PREE LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Barbara Pree Lewis, an awesome leader, who left such an amazing legacy and memories behind in Fayette, MS.

Barbara Pree Lewis was born January 26, 1950, to Josie Mae and Lloyd Pree. She peacefully departed this life on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at Rocky Hollow Lake House in Georgetown, Texas.

Barbara received her formal education through the Jefferson County School District in Fayette, Mississippi, where she graduated from Liddell High School in the class of 1968. Thereafter, she attended and graduated from Alcorn State University in 1972. As a lifelong learner, she received a Master's Degree from Alcorn State University and a second Master's Degree from Delta State University. Along with two master's degrees, she continued to enhance her education by receiving a Specialist Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. As an educator, she served as a middle school English and reading teacher in Ashland, Mississippi and Fayette, Mississippi.

Barbara also served as a high school English teacher, assistant principal, curriculum director, and high school principal all in the Jefferson County School District. In July 2014, she retired from the education profession with 42 years of service.

In 2006, Barbara joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, an organization of educated women through their membership selection process.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late, Barbara Pree Lewis, for her passion, dedication and leadership she left behind in the Jefferson County School District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN GROTHMAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 478.

HONORING CAPTAIN JULIAN M.
PLAMANN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of Captain Julian Plamann.

CPT Julian Plamann currently serves as the House of Representatives Liaison Officer for the National Guard Bureau. She ensures the National Guard's prompt response to the

House's 435 members and staffs by coordinating and conducting policy briefs, preparing senior National Guard leaders for Congressional hearings and engagements, and planning and leading Congressional outreach events on Capitol Hill.

She previously served as the Intelligence Engagement Officer for Task Force Spartan—Jordan where she briefed host nation general officers weekly on the regional intelligence picture, helped develop training plans to strengthen partnership capacity, and coordinated trilateral meetings to enhance intelligence sharing.

CPT Plamann is a proud member of the 34th Infantry Division Red Bulls. She has served at a variety of levels within the Division as Platoon Leader, Tactical Intelligence Officer, and ACE Targeting Officer.

In 2015, CPT Plamann was chosen for the position of Aide de Camp to the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Africa in Vicenza, Italy. In this capacity, she acted as the in-person staff representative for the General, traveled monthly to the continent of Africa to participate in training exercises with partner nations, and arranged routine meetings with Embassy staff, attachés, and Security Co-operation Teams in country.

In 2019, CPT Plamann was selected for the Army Congressional Fellowship. As a Defense Fellow for Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, she delivered clear military perspective on all proposed policies and covered the Department of Defense response to COVID-19. During the pandemic, she identified a policy gap for servicemembers and successfully added an amendment to the FY21 NDAA to ensure all Guard and Reserve members receive a good year toward retirement for the set duration of the presidentially declared emergency.

CPT Plamann graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She holds a masters degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

CPT Julian Plamann is a true American who chose to answer the call to serve our country. It is an honor to recognize her incredible service history that is a true depiction of her dedication to the National Guard. I wish her the best as she begins her new role with the National Guard Association of the United States.

HONORING JAMES LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mr. James Lewis. Mr. Lewis has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

In 2012, Mr. Lewis was a teacher's assistant at the Grove Street Alternative School, just getting his start as an educator and making \$800 a month with no benefits. Thanks to a lot of hard work and a few well-timed breaks, he's now in one of the most prominent jobs in the Vicksburg Warren School District (VWSD).

Lewis, a Vicksburg native, has been hired as the VWSD's next athletics director. The 36-year-old Lewis' career has been quite a rocket

ride. After his humble beginnings at Grove Street, he joined Warren Central's boys' basketball coaching staff as a junior high assistant in 2013. He became the junior high head coach in 2014 and the ninth-grade head coach in 2015.

He led Warren Central's ninth-grade team to a 42-8 record and three consecutive Little Six Conference championships, which opened the door for his first varsity head coaching job. He was hired at Jim Hill High School in Jackson in 2018 and was the MHSAA Region 2-5A Coach of the Year for the 2021-22 season. While at Jim Hill he won Coach of the Year and had a kid make the junior all-star game.

The whole time Lewis was making a name for himself in the coaching world, he was working behind the scenes to eventually transition out of it.

Lewis earned a masters degree in sports administration from Mississippi State before he started teaching. He said it focused mainly on running college, recreational and professional programs and not high school, however, so he went back to school. He earned a specialist degree in educational leadership and administration from Arkansas State University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Lewis for his passion and dedication to achieve new goals.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF WISCONSIN PLASTICS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin Plastics Inc., a second-generation family business in Ashwaubenon.

Founded in 1972 in Wisconsin, the business came from humble beginnings when Jim Christensen, Sr. purchased a small plating shop. Throughout its 50 years of operation, the business transformed from producing injection-molded plastic components with a handful of employees to a workforce of nearly 270 employees today. Wisconsin Plastics has become known for their renowned customer service with the ability to take the desires of consumers and bring them into production realities. I commend Wisconsin Plastics for their continued growth and success for the past 50 years.

In the half-century since the company's inception, Jim Christensen and the entire Wisconsin Plastics team have been committed to the expansion and future of the business. In order to keep up with industry demands, Wisconsin Plastics will double its current 65,000 square foot manufacturing plant with a 70,000 square foot expansion. The company plans to use this additional space for more injection molding machines and component assembly spaces. With this addition, Wisconsin Plastics will use automated and robotic production systems to enhance their existing operations to best serve their devoted customers. I applaud the company's continued efforts to adapt to industry demands.

Wisconsin Plastics is a company that has taken pride in the importance of innovation. For 20 years, the company has utilized 3D printing machines that have become a core

piece of their operation. Wisconsin Plastics is a great example of consistent improvement and growth. Their production of key components of Wisconsin industries speaks to their immense value to the State of Wisconsin. From providing parts for the defense aviation industry to the healthcare industry, Wisconsin Plastics helps keep Wisconsin running and is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and the United States of America.

I invite all Members of this body to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin Plastics, Inc. I extend my sincerest congratulations to founder Jim Christensen, Sr., current president Jim Christensen, and the entire Wisconsin Plastics team on this outstanding milestone. I wish them lasting success for years to come.

HONORING SHEILA APPLEWHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and remarkable retired educator and cancer survivor, Sheila Applewhite, who has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

In 2007, Sheila was diagnosed with breast cancer. She leaned on her faith and sprung into action, ready to fight. Sheila stated, "I never felt the negative feelings that people tend to feel because I put my trust in God."

As she went through the process of having both breasts surgically removed, the extraction of eight lymph nodes, and chemo and radiation, her preparation remained consistent. "I would pray and anoint my head with oil," Sheila recalled. "I would also pray that God would guide my doctors' and nurses' hands." Sheila's fighting mode consisted of praying, reading, and meditating on scripture.

Since that time, Sheila has retired after a 27-year teaching career, teaching mostly second grade. She taught 6 more years at St. Joe in Greenville.

Her experience has taught her that cancer and cancer treatment varies from person to person. Sheila said that just because one person's response to treatment is hair loss, that doesn't mean it will be similar in another. But she didn't allow it to get that far in her case. "I cut my own hair off before I started receiving treatments," she said. "Some people might begin to worry or become afraid with something like hair loss. But I never felt that way."

Fully retired and enjoying her grandkids, Sheila keeps faith at the center of her life and avails herself as a symbol of hope to those on the opposite end of this journey. Sheila stated, "I never had a bad feeling about what I was going through because God said He would never leave us or forsake us. I always tell those going through cancer treatment to stay positive and put God ahead of your problems. I never felt like I was alone. And I don't mind being someone they can talk to."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheila Applewhite for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors.

RECOGNIZING NICK AYERS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Ayers for his service to Kentucky's Second District. Prior to joining my D.C. congressional office, the Chesapeake, Virginia, native had great work experience in congressional offices. While he was working on his degree in Public Administration at George Mason University, Nick interned in Congressman Bruce Westerman's office. Following his college graduation, Nick joined Congresswoman Diane Black's office as staff assistant and worked his way up to legislative correspondent.

In March 2019, I welcomed Nick to my team as a legislative correspondent. In this role, he did an excellent job effectively communicating to constituents and responding to their inquiries. His strong knowledge of policy earned him a promotion to legislative aide. Nick met with constituents and researched the issues in his portfolio, including veterans, postal services, science, space, technology, fisheries, and federal budget policy issues.

I want to thank Nick for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as a legislative correspondent and a legislative aide. I wish him the best as he excels in this next chapter of his career on Capitol Hill.

HONORING BESSIE ORSBY-JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones. Bessie has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

Bessie Orsby-Jones is the Founder of Divine Branches, a support group she started after going into the remission stage of cancer. Mrs. Jones was in great need of a support group, but there was not one available in her community. She had a conversation about her concerns with Kenita Faye Miller, a cancer survivor and classmate of 12 years from St. Louis. Later, Mrs. Jones was given an invitation to join The Breakfast Club Cancer Support group in St. Louis through virtual access. She soon felt strongly about forming a support group of her own. She began a search for survivors in and around Clarksdale. She soon started the support group with Catherine Holmes, Mary Caradine, Vanessa Lampkin and Joyce Clark.

Mrs. Jones said she prayed about the name of the support group and God gave her the word Divine. After she expressed it to the group, one of the members shouted, "Branches." Thus, the name "The Divine Branches" was agreed upon. Divine means directed by God, and branches was based on John 15:5 "I am the Vine you are the Branches." She knew that if the branches stayed connected to the Vine they would go forth and be productive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors, and remembering those who lives were lost during their battle against breast cancer.

HONORING MAYOR VELMA D. HENDRIX

HON. JULIA LETLOW

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the incredible life and tremendous legacy of Mayor Velma D. Hendrix of Melville, Louisiana. Tragically, we lost Mayor Hendrix last week, just hours before the polls closed in her campaign to win a second term in office.

Velma Hendrix was born and raised in Melville, always proud of her roots in this small town on the banks of the Atchafalaya River. She dedicated her life to serving others. Her first calling was as a teacher in St. Landry Parish's schools, impacting the lives of countless students in the classroom.

After a career in education, she stepped up to serve the people of Melville, serving as an Alderman before winning election as Mayor in 2018. She sought the office at age 80, wanting to help others at a time in life when most people are thinking about taking time off.

She ran on a platform of bringing honesty, integrity, and accountability to the municipal government, wanting to rebuild a town that had fallen on tough economic times. When asked by a reporter what her goals were in office, she said, "I just want to see Melville come back."

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of a greater example of dedication to service and commitment to others than Mayor Velma D. Hendrix. While we mourn her untimely passing, we also take comfort in knowing that her legacy will live on in her community.

PHILIP NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Phil Nelson for his decades of service to the Citizens' Climate Lobby and to the State of Colorado.

Phil Nelson has been active in the environmental community for most of his life. In 1958, he started his education at MIT and received his B.S. in 1962 and Ph.D. in 1967; both in geophysics. After graduating from MIT, Phil worked at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (1977–1982) as well as the Sohio Petroleum, BP and Book Writing (1982–1987) before finishing his career at the United States Geological Survey (1988–2014). Phil retired in 2014 and continued his passion for environmental issues through volunteer work.

In 2014, he joined the Citizens' for Climate Lobby (CCL) in Golden, Colorado where he served as chair until 2022. This group meets regularly with local, state and federal leaders